

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

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## AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.  
Fourteenth street—DIE FLEDERMAUS, at 8 P. M. Miss Lina Mayr.

NIRLO'S.  
Broadway—THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Edwin P. Thorne. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

COLONNEUM.  
Broadway and Third street—PARIS IN A RIFORM, Two exhibitions daily, at 2 and 8 P. M.

ROOTH'S THEATRE.  
corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue—HENRY V., at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mr. Rhinold. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

SAN FRANCISCO KINSTRUP'S.  
Broadway, corner of Twenty-third street—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL.  
Sixteenth street—THE DUKE OF BURE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Macabre. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN.  
corner of Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue—EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOR PAINTINGS. Open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. and from 8 P. M. to 10 P. M.

TIVOLI THEATRE.  
Eighty street, between Second and Third avenues—VARIETY, at 12 P. M.; closes at 2:30 A. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.  
Broadway—THE HAIRSHIRTS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Bonciani. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

MR. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.  
Brooklyn—ROSE DALE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack.

WOODS MUSEUM.  
Broadway, corner of Thirtieth street—DIEDRICH, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.  
No. 224 Broadway—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ROMAN HIPPODROME.  
Twenty-sixth street and Fourth avenue—Afternoon and evening, at 2 and 8 P. M.

THEATRE COMIQUE.  
No. 314 Broadway—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.  
Twenty-sixth street and Broadway—THE BIG BONANZA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Lewis. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.  
No. 201 Broadway—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

LYCEUM THEATRE.  
Fourth street and Broadway—WEEHARTS AND WIVES, and JOE ON PARLE FRANCAIS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. J. L. Toole. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.  
Tulon avenue—VARIETY, at 2 P. M. and at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

RYAN'S OPERA HOUSE.  
West Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE.  
Fourth street—DIE KRANKE DOCTOREN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

PARK THEATRE.  
Broadway—French Opera House—BOULEGROUPE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mlle. Coralie Geoffrey. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be colder and clear.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Gold advanced to 114½. Stocks were irregular and dealings without importance. Money was unchanged and foreign exchange steady.

THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTION was celebrated at Salem yesterday, and we are bound to confess that the commemoration was more important in every way than Colonel Timothy Pickens's "bloodless engagement" with the timbers of the old North Bridge.

ANOTHER GANG OF COUNTERFEITERS has been broken up, the principal offenders being arrested at Attleboro, Mass., through information originally given by the North Attleboro National Bank. The story is one of more than ordinary interest.

THE SUFFERERS by the disaster at St. Andrew's church will need assistance, and it ought to be afforded without delay. A subscription should be started at once. We feel that it is only necessary to suggest it to secure the necessary help for these poor victims of other people's carelessness.

THE REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES is a piece of news which will be generally received with satisfaction, as it will quicken communication between America and Europe by enabling all to use the submarine telegraph who feel its necessity or convenience but have been deterred by the high rate of cable messages.

RAPID TRANSIT has suddenly become a favorite theme for the law-framing endeavors of our legislators, and two new schemes were introduced in the Legislature yesterday. What the people of this city want is a comprehensive measure that will secure them what is now the great need of the metropolis, and members must understand that they will be held responsible for any failure which may occur through a multiplicity of bills.

THE STEAMER QUEEN, which went ashore on the bar of Squan Beach on Thursday, was floated off yesterday and now lies safely at anchor at this port. The story of her hours of peril and her almost dramatic escape by the aid of the western gale, makes a graphic chapter in the history of the perils of those who go down to the sea in ships. Besides this we chronicle the loss of the Vicksburg, with an account of other shipwrecks on the Atlantic coast.

## The Republic in France.

Our correspondent at Versailles reports this morning, in a despatch elsewhere printed, that the recent vote on Wallon's bill shows that the moderate and patriotic men of all parties have resolved that the time has come for France to cease her experiments with monarchies, and to enter upon a permanent and peaceful government. Many years of war and revolution, Napoleonic campaigns draining France of her wealth and manhood, and drenching Europe with blood—reigns of terror, directorships, usurpations like the eighteenth of Brumaire and the Second of December—overwhelming and deserved humiliations like Leipsic, Waterloo and Sedan, have taught even Frenchmen that the Republic, and the Republic alone means peace. The declaration of a legitimist leader, as reported in our despatches, that there would be terrible struggles between the republicans and the conservatives, and that the followers of the Bourbons and Bonapartes would "unsuccessfully combat" the new institutions, shows the true spirit of royalty, and justifies the belief that is now shared by thoughtful men in all parts of the world, that the monarchists will have a throne or war. It was this resolve, the refusal of princes like Charles I. and Louis XVI. to accept any terms with the people failing to recognize the excesses of the revolutions in England and France which cost them their thrones and their heads. It was this sentiment which made Castelar's Republic impossible in Spain, which stimulates Don Carlos and his bigoted bandits to devastate Biscay and Navarre, and which, after driving a constitutional Cortes out of Madrid, summoned Alfonso by a military usurpation. We see it in France arraying itself against the will of the people expressed in nearly every election, and confirmed by solemn and repeated votes of the Assembly, and now menacing the new Republic with "unending war." We repeat, therefore, that the Republic means peace and a monarchy war.

Our correspondent sends us an admirable résumé of the public opinion in Versailles, which finds expression in this Republic. We may be pardoned, perhaps, in referring to his despatch as a step in the progress of journalism. It has become as necessary for us to have our daily budget of news and opinions from great capitals in Europe as it is to have a daily report from our own capital. By this alone can we have an intelligent appreciation of the great events that move the world. We see, as our correspondent informs us, that the French have resolved that they will no longer have a permanent and irresponsible master. They want a living government, not a mummy. They want a system that expresses their will and ministers to their greatness and prosperity, not a stupid Bourbon or an obstinate Bonaparte. Weary of revolution, and of wars springing from ambition worse than revolution, they wish to be able to change their government when it no longer pleases them. As our correspondent aptly puts it—France as a nation proposes hereafter to deal with its rulers as the citizen deals with the servants of his household and his business. Nor can this be regarded as a freak or sudden impulse, or a mad craving of an ignorant multitude for novelty and change. In earlier and ruder days, before society rested upon law, when force was another name for justice, in the feudal times of the Middle Ages, a military chief was necessary to the protection of communities. Then great captains like Richard the Lion-hearted, Du Guesclin and other feudal leaders were indispensable. Civilization has made such men as unnecessary as the old armor—which would weigh our most stalwart warriors to the earth, or the battle axe and the bow. Then great issues were decided by prowess; now we refer them to engineering and rifled cannon. Men of genius are no longer necessary to society, for society represents a genius higher than that given by God to any of his creatures. France is greater than Napoleon, and France lives. Caesar was greater than Rome, and Rome perished. Whenever the spirit of Caesarism or Napoleonism usurps the free expression of a people's will the nation will pass away. Consequently we see the noblest struggles for liberty in the efforts now making in France to destroy the royal system, and the resolution of patriotic men at home to stamp out the budding power of Caesarism and military ambition.

The present condition of parties in France is full of interest and instruction. It recalls the Georgian period of English parliamentary history and the extraordinary condition of our own politics before the war. This is felicitously hinted by our correspondent. In the Georgian era Pitt and Fox were sustained by landholders and hereditary noblemen, a gifted and spirited aristocracy, who displayed to a great degree the highest qualities of statesmanship. In America we had a similar party in the South; a small, compact, gallant race, resting upon slavery, controlling the Republic by genius and will. Our Northerners were then too active in the pursuits of life, too eager for gain to take an active part in public affairs. While the strongest men represented the compact, aristocratic slave States, powerful constituencies like New England and New York were represented by men of inferior abilities. Consequently the South prevailed until the shrewd common sense, resolute, creative, thrifty, manly spirit which animated the Northern people, destroyed the aristocracy of slavery and consolidated the Union in liberty and emancipation. The former system would have been well, perhaps, if every citizen had been as wise as Solon or as eloquent as Demosthenes. But the conditions of Homeric warfare have been reversed. In our modern contests, as brilliantly illustrated in France, princes are nothing and the people everything.

Much of the public sentiment of America in reference to France is inspired by the journalism of the English press, representing the wishes of the royalists, which upon every colorable pretext depreciates the efforts of the republicans to consolidate the institutions of France upon the basis of peace and prosperity. Versailles is doing its best. The alliance which has passed the Wallon bill and proclaimed the Republic comprises no heaven-born rulers, but represents the real opinion of the nation. The leaders are not perplexed by philosophical subtleties. They are resolved to establish a working republic. Arranged against

them are the legitimists, who will have Henry V. or war, the Middle Ages or revolution, the Bourbons or the Commune. We have also the Bonapartists, whose claim to power is the splendor of the Empire. They would have France forget the humiliations of Waterloo and Sedan in the achievements of Baron Haussmann and the building of new boulevards. This party finds its strength in Parisian merchants and fashionable shopkeepers, who yearn for another throne, the pageantry of a court, the gaudy magnificence of the imperial régime. Brilliant as these temptations are, especially to the mind of a nation fond of taste and display and decorations, the wiser and higher sense of France sees that the Empire is but tinsel and ornament, covering intrigue, despotism, social corruption, insurrection and war. France, it seems, can rest upon no solid basis unless it embraces the Republic. The Republic will revive the other cities of France, and no longer sacrifice the interests of the nation to the welfare of the metropolis. If the vicissitudes of this interesting and wonderful people teach anything it is that no policy is more disastrous to the true welfare of France than the Napoleonic idea that the welfare of France should be sacrificed to the glory and emolument of Paris. No nation can live and be truly great that yields to this temptation. The greed of the Roman citizens sacrificed Italy. The republicans of France have learned from Rome that a nation must grow to power upon elements more durable than the wealth and display of a petted capital.

## Threatened Floods and Ice Gorges.

If the backbone of the winter is not broken the recent interval of warm and ice dissolving weather has probably sufficed to start in motion large masses of melted snow toward the sea. On the 19th inst. considerable quantities of rain fell in northern portions of the country, and the mercury in the thermometer, so long depressed by the polar waves, began to rise. Mild and rising temperatures were reported generally east of the Rocky Mountains, from the 20th to the 23d, with rain from Virginia to New Jersey on the latter day, succeeded by yet warmer and rainy weather in the Atlantic States on the 24th. The storm of Thursday poured heavy volumes of water on the sections lying east of the Alleghenies, and its high road must have dislodged the ice in the rivers.

To these ice-losing conditions we had Friday added, west of the Alleghenies, predictions of southerly winds and warmer weather, and nearly the same for the Middle Atlantic States. Thus, for a week past, the atmosphere has been rapidly softening the winter's snow and accumulated ice. The spring floods of the Western rivers have already set in, and ice gorges have formed in the Eastern water courses. It is necessary, therefore, to be forewarned against the impending danger of unusually great and early spring floods and ice gorges, and the attending peril to property along the Eastern rivers and their tributaries. The freshet in the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia, the ice gorge in the Housatonic and other events reported in our telegraphic columns to-day, show that the danger is hardly to be overestimated, yet with a little prudence and expense many losses and accidents from defective railroad bridges may be averted.

## New Phases in the Beecher Case.

General Tracy continued his address in the opening of the Beecher case yesterday, and will conclude on Monday. This begins the second stage of this extraordinary trial. From the tone of General Tracy's address we should infer that the policy of the friends of Mr. Beecher is severe, comprehensive and decisive. They mean to carry the war into Africa. We do not pretend to follow the drift of the General's argument in all its phases. Mr. Moulton may be Judas Iscariot, but under our law even Judas Iscariot would be a competent witness until he was contradicted. Our concern is not with Mr. Moulton's resemblance to a picture of Leonardo da Vinci, but with his veracity. Rhetoric never destroyed the truth; and is Mr. Moulton a truthful man? One very remarkable feature is the prominence assigned to Henry C. Bowen. That gentleman is now holding a remarkable position in this unfortunate affair. He has been, from the foundation of Plymouth church, among its conspicuous members, and has been more or less identified with the fortunes of Mr. Beecher since he came to Brooklyn. The problem of the scandal has been what would Mr. Bowen say, if he said anything? Thus far he has preserved silence. The most enterprising reporters have failed to draw from him an expression of opinion. Whether he is an enemy or a friend of Mr. Beecher is unknown. The general impression conveyed by those who control Mr. Beecher's side of the scandal is that Mr. Bowen's attitude is that of Iago, who cared little whether Cassio killed Rodrigo or Rodrigo Cassio, finding his gain in the death of each. This uncertainty has come to an end by the speech of General Tracy, who directly charges that Mr. Bowen has been an active conspirator against the peace and honor of Mr. Beecher. Mr. Bowen, who has certainly shown courage whenever he has made his appearance in the scandal, answers by a prompt and emphatic card, defying Mr. Beecher to call him to the stand and give him an opportunity of telling the truth. Whether Mr. Beecher will accept his challenge or not is a question. It is certain that Mr. Bowen now becomes the most important figure in the controversy. Until his evidence is heard the whole truth will not be known. He will probably be called as a witness by Mr. Tilton when the evidence for rebuttal is given.

A correspondent, whose letter we publish elsewhere, follows up the suggestion of the HERALD that this trial cannot come to an intelligent conclusion by omitting the evidence of Mrs. Tilton with the suggestion that the law should be amended so as to make her a competent witness. Nothing is clearer than that the position of Mrs. Tilton is a hardship. If, under our law, a husband can swear away the honor of his wife without giving her an opportunity of defending herself, then the law is at fault. But we question the wisdom of altering our statutes to suit any case, and we see no possibility of the Legislature being brought to change the statute merely to suit the exigencies of Brooklyn jurisprudence. We never know the exact operation of our laws until they are tested. Whatever the

result of the Brooklyn trial, it is certain that there must be an amendment of our laws, so far as the rights of a woman to defend her honor are concerned.

## Responsibility for the Late Appalling Disaster.

No diligence of investigation, no verdict of a coroner's jury, no vigor of denunciation, no indignant award of blame, no wisdom behind time can indemnify the unhappy victims of the recent terrible calamity. The dead cannot be restored to life; denunciation can set no broken bones; the excruciating pains of the maimed and mangled sufferers cannot be allayed by popular anger; and if anything valuable is to result from exhibitions of public feeling on this occasion it must come, not in the form of indemnity for the past, but of security for the future. We share the deep indignation universally excited on this subject, but we are not willing it should exhaust itself in a mere transient explosion to subside with the occasion, and leading to no guarantee against the recurrence of such dreadful catastrophes. Unless effective preventive measures are adopted now, while public sentiment is so fully alive to the evil, they will not be adopted at all, and the community will remain exposed to similar perils.

It is too clear for argument that the responsibility for this disaster rests primarily upon the Department of Buildings, and we do not see that the official letters published by its officers extenuate their culpability. All that is proved by these documents is that there was a merely formal compliance with some of the requirements of the law soon after the fire by which the Duane street store was gutted. A mere empty compliance with legal forms, followed by no efficient steps for taking down the dangerous wall, was a criminal trifling with the law and with the public safety. These defensive official letters are of themselves a sufficient ground of condemnation against the Department of Buildings. They prove that the department was made aware of the dangerous condition of the standing walls immediately after the fire, and the long period of forty-four days which elapsed between the fire and the calamity is a crushing proof of official laxness and criminal negligence which no afterthought can explain away.

While responsibility for the past so clearly rests upon the Department of Buildings security for the future depends on the Mayor, and we trust he will discharge his duty with resolute promptitude. The charter requires him "to be vigilant and active in causing the ordinances of the city and laws of the State to be executed and enforced." He cannot be expected to give minute personal attention to the daily routine and mere details of administration in the municipal departments. It is the duty of each head of a department to be thoroughly acquainted with its affairs and to see that all his subordinates are active and efficient; and when he fails to make them so, and a great public calamity demonstrates the fact, it is the clear duty of the Mayor to give that department a new head, who will make a better selection of subaltern officers and exercise greater vigilance in seeing that they properly discharge their functions. To exculpate the head of a department and punish one or two of his subordinates is the surest method of perpetuating the criminal laxity of which we have just had so dreadful an example. When the Commissioner of Buildings is made to understand that he is responsible for his subordinates, and that he can hold his place only so long as his department is well managed, he will give proper personal attention to its details.

Of all the municipal departments that of buildings is the one which requires the most thoroughgoing promptness and vigor. When the high walls of an insecure building threaten to topple down, crushing people beneath the ruins, the case is too urgent for delay, and the law on the subject allows of none. It is inexcusable to postpone for six or seven weeks what the law and the public safety require to be done at once. Let us examine the law. Its language is that, "immediately" upon such unsafe or dangerous building or buildings, part or parts of a building, wall, walls or parts of walls, and so forth—going on with a long enumeration—shall be reported as unsafe, the same shall be "immediately" entered on the docket of unsafe buildings and the owner or owners served with a notice requiring him or them to "immediately" certify to the department his or their consent or refusal to remove the same, and that "he or they shall be allowed until twelve o'clock M. of the next day following the service of such notice in which to commence the removal of the same." If the owners refuse the law requires legal proceedings to be taken "forthwith" for taking down and removing the dangerous building or wall, and the precept of the Court shall "immediately" thereupon "be executed by the public authorities at the expense of the owners, giving them, however, a last opportunity to do it themselves, provided the same shall be done immediately."

We wish to fix attention upon the reiterated emphasis and urgency of the law in commanding that the removal of unsafe buildings or walls be commenced "immediately," and allowing the owners only until noon of the next day to decide whether they will do it voluntarily or subject themselves to the prompt compulsion of legal proceedings. We ask our readers to contrast this perpetual repetition of the words "forthwith" and "immediately," running through the whole texture of the law on this subject, with the slack unconcern and dilatory negligence which permitted forty-four days to glide away with the dangerous Duane street walls still standing, and ending in a horrible catastrophe which gives a sickening shock to the whole community.

IN DISTRIBUTING the blame which attaches to different people for the terrible calamity at St. Andrew's church we must not overlook the fact that the priest in charge of the parish is not entirely free from censure. He should have insisted sternly and constantly upon the removal of the dangerous wall. It was his duty to care for the safety of his people, and here was a danger menacing them whenever they entered the church, and resulting in a calamity from which vigorous action on his part might have saved them. As a matter of course, we do not wish to be understood as imputing responsibility for the disaster to him, but to point out that a priest's duty to his people is only fully performed when he is

able to show that he has battled against every danger that threatens them. It is the duty of every priest and every minister to know that no dangerous walls are overhanging his church, and to see that the means of egress from the edifice are ample in case of some unforeseen disaster. We hope this fearful lesson may have the effect of inducing the clergy of this city and of every city to care more thoroughly for the safety of their flocks and to guard against calamities like that which befell the worshippers at St. Andrew's.

## An Inharmonious City Government.

Nothing is clearer than that our city government as now constituted is a failure. The efforts of the Legislature to pass a bill that will give New York a useful republican system, and the constant irritations that are seen between the heads of departments and the Mayor, only show the folly of endeavoring to govern a great metropolis upon any principle but that the will of the people should prevail. Take the case of the Comptroller. Mr. Green is in a position which makes it impossible for the city to be usefully governed. We do not charge him with dishonesty. The fault is in his character and our system. Even if he had high qualities of executive management, his position is so anomalous that it would be impossible to get along harmoniously. The Comptroller wields power conferred upon his office by the old Tweed charter and by the extraordinary order of Judge Barnard, which clothed him with authority making him virtually the master of New York. This was never intended. His office is necessary in a financial government, but it is an office of audit, examination and scrutiny. It should have no executive power. Here is an office subordinate in spirit and intention to the Mayor and the Common Council, yet supreme over them, capable of obstructing the necessary works of improvement and legislation and the whole machinery of the government.

When we had corrupt men in the Comptrollership, who simply held office to serve their own purposes, they showed how it was possible to rob the Treasury and bring great misfortunes upon the people. This was not only the fault of the officer, but of the office. We see now an obstinate, narrow-minded, selfish official who can produce the worst inconveniences. The government of New York is paralyzed to-day—first, because the Comptrollership is clothed with imperial attributes, and second, because the Comptroller is Green. We find Mayor Wickham, the elect of the people, charged with the government of New York and responsible for its administration, checked and arrested by the appointee of Connolly and Tweed, acting under the functions of the old Tammany charter.

What we want is a harmonious government. There should be no longer the servile dependence upon Albany that now exists. The influence of Albany upon our city has always been pernicious. Legislators have looked upon it as reckless gold miners looked upon the placers in the Sacramento valley—only for its gold. Therefore the democratic party has emphasized the principle of home rule, which means, if it means anything, that the people of a great city are capable of managing their own affairs, without the interference of a distant group of country politicians. The Mayor should be as responsible and independent as the President. He should appoint his own Cabinet. He should control, subject, of course, to the necessary restrictions of a representative legislative body like the Aldermen and Common Council. The heads of departments should be to him what the heads of the War, Navy and Treasury departments are to the President. If it is necessary to except the Comptrollership from this arrangement let it be a check upon the other departments, but limiting its powers to those of audit and control.

If these wranglings between the Mayor and the Governor continue; if reform is simply to dribble into irritating and tedious correspondence; if the Mayor is first to be checked by the Governor and then to be defied by his subordinates, his office is not an honor, but an indignity. Let us have our Mayor chief magistrate in letter and in spirit. Let us have a thoroughly harmonious city government. Let New York be released from its servile dependence upon Albany. Let the Comptrollership be reduced to its proper function, to the performance of such duties as we see in the Comptrollership of the Washington Treasury. Finally, let Andrew H. Green be dismissed from the office as an unworthy man holding an improper place, and as the bar to the true reform and the harmonious conduct of our affairs.

## Religion in Politics.

North Carolina has taken the initiative in that great labor dear to the heart of intolerant bigotry—"putting God into the constitution." Her Legislature has actually expelled a member for the definitely declared reason that he does not believe in the existence of a God; and this action was taken on the motion of a colored member, a functionary whose grandfather, perhaps, and his great-grandfather certainly, bowed down to Mumbo Jumbo in the neighborhood of the Guinea coast, and who therefore comes legitimately by vigorous religious impulses. It would not be an extravagant fancy to picture the grandfather of this leader of the religious thought of North Carolina in the full enjoyment of the spare ribs of his enemy, convicted of the heinous fault of bowing down at the shrine of some other Mumbo Jumbo than the one he fancied; and perhaps even the persecuted member in the present case may congratulate himself that the market furnishes better meat than he would for the white ivories of his antagonist. It does not appear whether the expelled member believes in God or does not believe in Him. It only appears that he has written on the subject, and that the average ignorance puts the extremist interpretation on what he has written, and thereupon puts him out, despite the several clauses in the constitution of the State which seem to make a man's thoughts on these topics dependent upon no other standard than "the dictates of his own conscience." But North Carolina is a primitive country. Her people entertain very nearly the religious notions that flourished in the times when disputes were settled at the stake, and when a negro—the extremist of the class—threw this motion among the representatives of people of that sort they dared not vote in a way their constituents would have deemed scandalous.

## The North Pole Expeditions.

Our Washington correspondent sends us some interesting intelligence in reference to the opinions entertained in Washington about the proposed expeditions to the North Pole which are exciting so much attention in Germany and England. Bismarck and Disraeli seem to be striving for precedence in solving the problem that surrounds that vast icebound region of the north. Americans, who really feel that Americans should discover America, cannot be expected to look on this strife in silence. The expectation that this administration would send out an expedition is not confirmed by our correspondence. Secretary Robeson informs us that the consent of Congress would be necessary to such an expedition, that the cost would be comparatively small, and that the Navy Department could furnish all the material required. There is already at the Washington Navy Yard a vessel fit for Arctic service and he thinks that one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would pay the whole cost. The Secretary is convinced that no expedition can be successful that is not under naval control. He believes that if Captain Hall had been simply an explorer and if his ship had been managed by a naval officer he could have finished his proposed work. He promised to assist any movement on the part of our Geographical Society or our citizens generally to induce Congress to give the necessary authority to enable us to send our flag, if possible, to the Pole.

Admiral Porter addresses us an interesting letter on the subject, showing his hearty sympathy with the proposed explorations. The opinions of this illustrious officer, properly at the head of our navy, a man of genius and great naval experience and an authority upon all such questions, should be listened to with great attention. He believes that no vessel could succeed that was not built for the purpose, that steam power is indispensable, that strict naval discipline should be maintained, and that the expedition should be under the command of an officer and seamen from the navy. He believes also that the expeditions from the different countries should go in company, where they would have better chances of succeeding, and that the spirit of emulation should be excited. The dangers of Arctic investigation are, in his opinion, less than is commonly supposed. He alludes to the fact that has often been observed, that men who have once been to the Arctic regions are always willing to venture again.

We are inclined to agree with the opinion of the Admiral that there should be naval supervision in expeditions of this character. At the same time, there should also be an important position assigned to such men as Dr. Hayes, who have made this problem the study of their lives, who have visited the Arctic regions and who are rich in experience. If we could have an expedition under the auspices of the government, naval officers commanding it in all its details and a man like Dr. Hayes directing its errand and infusing his spirit into its officers and men, we have no doubt that America would enter the race with many chances of success. Congress should act upon this matter at once. The sum asked is very small, and it is a reflection upon our enterprise and patriotism to see England and Germany so busy while we are standing still.

THE MINORITY of the committee which investigated the Vicksburg troubles finds the people of that city not guilty, on grounds of self-defense.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

General S. C. Armstrong, of Virginia, is stopping at Barmine's Hotel.  
Count Bathany, of Hungary, has apartments at the Clarendon Hotel.  
Over 1,000,000 gold pieces of the value of \$4 each have just been coined at Paris.  
Mr. Henry Armit Brown, of Philadelphia, is staying at the Albemarle Hotel.  
General Henry Brewster, United States Army, is quartered at the Strevant House.  
Lieutenant Governor H. G. Knight, of Massachusetts, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.  
Madame Ristori arrived last night with her company on the Crescent City from Havana.  
General John N. Knapp, recently of Governor Dix's staff, is registered at the Windsor Hotel.  
Mr. Thomas Hilde, United States Minister to Ecuador, has taken up his residence at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.  
So long as neither side calls Henry C. Bowen, it will be evident that neither side wishes to exhibit the whole truth.

Professors Theodore D. Woolsey, of New Haven, and J. Henry Thayer, of Andover, Mass., are at the Everett House.  
Solicitor Burton Wilson, of the Treasury Department, arrived at the Brevoort House yesterday from Washington.  
Judge Charles Daniels, of the New York Supreme Court, arrived at the Grand Central Hotel last evening from his home at Buffalo.  
Mr. George M. Pullman, of Chicago, arrived from Europe in the steamship Algeria yesterday and is sojourning at the Brevoort House.  
In the future it will not be necessary to go to Santa Barbara to secure "mud baths"; it will be only necessary to secure some association with the Beecher case.

Senators Daniel H. Cole, George B. Bradley and William Johnson, and Assemblymen Thomas G. Alvord, George Taylor and F. W. Vossburg arrived from Albany last evening at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Paris will have an International Congress within her walls on March 1 to deal with the important subject of weights and measures. If a quart measure is ever to hold three pints these are the fellows who must arrange it.

Alexander Dumas, it is said, never sketches a scheme for any of his pieces. He takes for a four-act piece seventy-seven big sheets of blue paper. He devotes twenty pages each to the first, second and third acts, and seventeen to the last.

Of all the women named in connection with the Beecher case Mrs. Moulton was the only one who seemed animated by a downright spirit of honesty, and who gave the pastor really brave counsel; and upon her, therefore, is likely to fall the fury of resentment.

Alfonso refused to accept from Espartero his Order of St. Ferdinand, because he "was so young and had not merited any mark of distinction," but he gave to Espartero, "taking it from his own neck," the Order of Charles III. This latter order, therefore, is not a mark of distinction, if Alfonso is logical.

Evidently the British detective is also at fault, and is not at all so great a man as he was in the novels some time ago. Lady Doolley has been compelled to propose to the persons who stole her jewels "complete secrecy and a sum in reward larger than any that could be obtained for the jewels from any other source."

Bad sign from Annapolis. If they expel all the boys who refuse to fence with the colored boy they will, perhaps, only weed out those who have the daring to act on what are the instincts and impulses of all, and daring that does not stop to consider all the consequences is not an article that we ought to weed out of our navy.